

who explained how the dominance of the Brahmin has been challenged by Bahujan. He said that by his thesis that the best way to fight discrimination is to strengthen the caste identity, has helped the castes to consolidate their vote banks to help their own kin to win elections. The result is that the Bahujan parties have won power in several states in India. The rejection of the fair system of Separate Electorate has backfired on the Brahmin. He is looking for new ways to restore its grip over power. The new method is to embrace Communism. They have organized Communist parties and groups all over India. They have captured power in West Bengal and Kerala through elections but in most other areas they operate as terrorist groups under the title of Naxalites or Maoists. The landlords in much of rural India are Thakurs—a caste one level below the Brahmin—and the farm labour is from Untouchable castes. The humiliation of the caste system piled upon exploitation by forced or unpaid labour makes rural India a hell hole. In this charged environment, the Brahmin cadres have started their Naxalite Movement. Given a gun the irate labourers shoot and kill the land lord and end up in prison or on the gallows; the Brahmin secures confirmation as “revolutionary leader”. The Brahmin schemes are so complex and diabolical that it is hard to fathom the truth. But the low castes in India are waking up, says Mr. Rajshekar. They can now act wisely and devise a new polity that recognizes rather than denies the multiplicity of India's faiths, castes and states to give them their due and obtain internal harmony and peace with all the neighbours.

Three more papers were read at the Seminar. Brigadier © Usman Khalid, Director of Lisa, said that the system of Separate Electorate is necessary for India to give justice to minority faiths (like in Pakistan)—Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. But the decision is for the majority to make. They may prefer to extend the protection of Separate Electorate to the top 5% high castes instead. As for the Sikhs in the Punjab, the Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, and the tribal peoples of Assam, they are separate nations who have struggled for freedom for many decades; they should be allowed to exercise their right of self-determination. Professor Gurtej Singh, explained how “reservation” of seats in education and employment has not provided justice to the oppressed low castes but has made them subject of hate further isolating them. He proposed that reservation should be extended to all faith communities and all castes.

Dr. Aulakh in his presidential address at the end exposed the truth about India, which practises the worst form of apartheid under minority rule. The Brahmin keeps inventing new gimmicks and tricks to maintain his hold over power. He made a powerful case for a sovereign state for the Sikh nation in the Punjab which has been endorsed by the resolutions of Sarbat Khalsa and reinforced by the massacre of the Sikhs in the Punjab and other parts of India in the wake of the assault and desecration of Durbur Sahib in 1984. He supported the struggle for freedom of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, of Nagas and other peoples of Assam.

The seminar was followed by a ceremony for “Lisa Book Award” given every year to a book by an author from South Asia that has made a difference. The award in 2006 was given to “Tandev of the Centaur—Sikhs and Indian Secularism” by Professor Gurtej Singh. It was presented to him by the winner of the same award last year—Mr. V.T. Rajshekar. The citation read:

“This book shows that the ‘freedom struggle’ of India was in fact a struggle for succession to hegemony. The British had repeat-

edly said they were preparing India for self rule and would leave once the job was done. The Muslims took notice and declared that the Brahmin not the British were their main adversary. Since the Muslims were concentrated on the periphery and were sparse in numbers in the rest of India, they wanted autonomous Muslim majority regions and Separate Electorate. This would have protected the rights of all faiths and castes. They demanded Pakistan after failing in every attempt to get their due share in power by constitutional guarantees prior to Independence. The effort of the Hindu leadership was to try and build a majority around the idea of ‘Secularism’ and ‘Joint Electorate’. Under the Poona Pact of 1932, the Bahujan compromised their identity when they agreed to be included on the electoral rolls with the Hindus.

“The Sikhs believed that the British would not leave until thrown out and thus played into the hands of the Hindus to become the vanguard of the armed struggle against the British making thus making the most sacrifices. The Sikhs were promised their separate state; that was a false promise they call ‘Raj Neeti’. All those who trusted M.K. Gandhi and relied on Congress ‘promises’ now feel betrayed. The book reveals that India is founded on a polity of paranoia; it is united only in fear and hate. The Hindu leaders feared the Muslim and wanted the partition even more than the Muslims. After the Muslim majority left and went to Pakistan the Sikhs are seen by them as a threat. The wanton use of force against them for a decade in the wake of the assault on Durbur Sahib in 1984, the Sikh Nation virtually stands expelled from the Indian Union. A sovereign Sikh state is only a matter of time. This has become inevitable due to the clarity of vision of scholar leaders like Sirdar Gurtej Singh.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN EULER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Euler, a Vietnam veteran, retired U.S. marine, and tireless public servant.

After retiring as the Deputy Director of the Torts Branch, Civil Division of the Department of Justice, John thought he was finished working for the Federal Government. However, in January of 2004, John's sense of duty compelled him to volunteer for 6 months in Iraq as Director of International Counsel. His 26 years of experience with the Department of Justice and his extensive legal career gave him all the tools necessary to help the new Iraqi Government build a new legal system from the ground up. John faced many challenges in Iraq, including the fact that all legal records were destroyed by war. Despite the difficult task, John helped the Iraqi Government to build an entirely new court system and to defend itself in over 70 international cases. His service has helped the Iraqis to live in a society operating under the rule of law, a protection that many Americans take for granted.

John's strong passion for civil service has again called him to Iraq. He is currently serving as the Deputy Legal Counsel for the U.S. Department of State. In this new position, John advises the United States Embassy in Iraq on issues relating to the new Iraqi Government. His experience in creating the Iraqi

legal system makes his counsel invaluable to the embassy's team.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John Euler for his extensive service to the United States and for his dedication to the rebuilding of the Iraqi Government. His bravery and support during these trying times serve as a model for us all. I thank him for his perseverance and his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPPORTUNITY CENTER-EASTER SEAL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the House's attention today to recognize the mission of the Opportunity Center-Easter Seal located in Anniston, AL. On September 6, 2006, the Opportunity Center will reach a 50-year milestone for having served people with disabilities in and around Calhoun County.

The Opportunity Center acts as a rehabilitation, training and employment facility designed to aid disabled people to achieve their highest potential. The mission is important, and should be commended for helping rehabilitate those who have been disabled from birth and those who have become disabled. The Opportunity Center-Easter Seal seeks to help those with barriers to employment maximize their employment potential, an important resource for many across East Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a proud achievement for the Opportunity Center. I congratulate those who built and have maintained this fine facility, and thank the House for its attention to this important matter today.

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career contributions of Mr. Tim Friedman, Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom and a public servant of the highest degree. For 30 years, Mr. Friedman has served our country in some capacity within the walls of Congress and he has served these years with dignity and decorum.

As Mr. Friedman prepares to retire, I congratulate him and wish him the best. He has certainly earned the opportunity to kick up his heels, enjoy some time with his wife, and play a few rounds of golf. But as a Member of Congress, I must say that it is sad to see him go. For 20 years, he has been a fixture in the Cloakroom—an institution as significant as the Cloakroom itself.

Mr. Friedman will be missed, but his work ethic will continue on, through his co-workers who admire him, through the many pages who have looked to him for guidance over the years and through the Democratic Members of Congress themselves.

I thank Mr. Friedman for his service and his commitment to the Democratic Cloakroom.

The qualities he embodies—loyalty, trustworthiness, reliability—are getting harder and harder to find nowadays. May God bless this admirable man and his family as he begins this next chapter.

DESIGNATING THE NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AS AMERICA'S NATIONAL NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Senate Concurrent Resolution 60, a resolution sponsored by my friend Senator TALENT, and agreed to by this body yesterday, that designates the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City as America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. It was my pleasure to work with Chairman POMBO and the Resources Committee to bring this important resolution to the floor, and I thank the Chairman for his help and friendship.

Those of us familiar with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum already think of it as America's museum, but the passage of this resolution makes that distinction official.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum was founded in 1990, and for its first four years of existence operated out of a one room office in the historic 18th and Vine District of Kansas City. Today it is a 10,000 square foot Museum, filled with historic memorabilia, sculptures, photographs, and other exhibits that pay tribute to some of baseball's greatest pioneers.

It is fitting that the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is in Kansas City, Missouri, Mr. Speaker, because the Negro Leagues were officially organized in Kansas City during a meeting in 1920. Kansas City was also the home of the Negro Leagues' longest-running franchise—the Kansas City Monarchs—which sent more Negro Leagues players to Major League Baseball than any other Negro Leagues franchise.

From 1920 until the closure of the last teams in the early 1960s, countless greats excelled at America's pastime in the Negro Leagues, including Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, James "Cool Papa" Bell, Ernie Banks, Hank Aaron, Jackie Robinson, and of course Mr. Speaker, John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil.

Mr. O'Neil is the current Chairman of the Board of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and continues to work tirelessly at age 94. He has enjoyed an unparalleled career as a player, scout, manager, coach, and ambassador for baseball since 1937, and Buck O'Neil also selflessly interrupted his stellar professional baseball career to serve our country during World War II in the United States Navy.

It is ironic that this resolution came before the House for consideration a few days before Hall of Fame weekend in Cooperstown, New York. Several Negro Leagues players will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this weekend, but Buck O'Neil is tragically not among them. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no one more quali-

fied for induction into the Hall of Fame than Buck O'Neil, but sadly that will not happen this weekend.

So, we must console ourselves in the knowledge that Buck O'Neil's passion—the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum—is granted official recognition by our nation with yesterday's passage of this concurrent resolution. I thank my colleagues for supporting this important measure, and I urge them to come to Kansas City and visit America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation as to why I voted in favor of overriding the Presidential veto of H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

On August 9, 2001, President Bush announced that he would only allow federal funding for experiments involving stem cells already derived from embryos but not for research that would cause the destruction of further embryos. I am pleased that the President did not issue a full ban on federal funding of stem cell research, but I am very concerned that this restriction does not offer researchers the quality and diversity they will need to conduct full and complete research on these diseases. In fact, the National Institutes of Health recently reported that under current federal policy only about 19 stem cell lines are available to researchers, some of which are contaminated or otherwise unusable.

On May 24, 2005, the House passed H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005, which expands the current federal policy on embryonic stem cell research by allowing federal funding on stem cell lines derived after August 9, 2001. In addition, the House also passed H.R. 2520, legislation to establish a National Cord Blood Stem Cell Inventory and authorize \$15 million annually to collect 150,000 high quality cord blood stem cell units for research or transplantation. I voted in favor of both measures. Therefore, I voted today to override the President's veto of H.R. 810 because I believe the potential to improve lives with stem cell research is too great to dismiss. The bipartisan support for this measure is also indicative of the importance of stem cell research.

Recent scientific research has suggested that embryonic stem cells hold immense potential to successfully treat many serious medical conditions including diabetes, Parkinson's Disease and cancer. Scientists believe the knowledge obtained from additional human embryonic stem cell studies could lead to the development of techniques to generate cells that would replace damaged tissues for a variety of conditions. H.R. 810 required that these cells would be acquired, using stringent guidelines established by the National Institutes of Health, NIH, from fertility clinic embryos, already in existence, that would otherwise be discarded. Why waste such biological material when the potential human health and scientific benefits of stem cell research are staggering in their promise?

Federal support of stem cell research will allow American scientists to harness this groundbreaking technology to potentially save many lives and improve the quality of others. In addition, the oversight which will come with broad federal support will result in better and more ethically controlled research in the field than if funding was from private sources alone.

"GOING TO HAVE TO SELL MY HOUSE . . . OR DIE": DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OF MEDICARE PART D

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Medicare Part D continues to bring problems for our Nation's seniors. As more and more reach the "doughnut hole," seniors are confronted with dramatic, no-win choices. I offer my colleagues a recent article in the San Diego Union-Tribune—"Going to Have to Sell My House . . . or Die." It's past time to start over with the prescription drug benefit!

[From the San Diego Union-Tribune, July 16, 2006]

GOING TO HAVE TO SELL MY HOUSE ... OR DIE
(By Keith Darcé)

Frank Harrison says he's facing a choice between his health and his house.

When the Spring Valley retiree hit a coverage cap in his federal prescription drug plan in early June, his monthly medicine costs skyrocketed from about \$250 to about \$1,800, largely because of two expensive immune suppression drugs that he has taken since a kidney transplant six years ago.

The 62-year-old former computer company operations manager, whose main income comes from Social Security disability benefits, stopped taking one of the drugs, which cost about \$575 a month, so that he could keep paying his \$750 mortgage payment.

"What it boils down to pretty soon is that I'm going to have to sell my house. It's either that or die," he said.

Harrison is among the 3.4 million seniors and disabled Americans who have begun to fall into a gap in Medicare Part D coverage. They must pay the full price for drugs after they've spent \$2,250 in co-payments and until their out-of-pocket costs reach \$5,100 for the year.

Those in the so-called "doughnut hole" are likely to cut back on medicines to save money even if doing so jeopardizes their health, according to some research.

"Some are being caught totally unaware," said Jennifer Duncan, who manages the San Diego Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program.

HICAP, which assists Medicare beneficiaries, has fielded calls in recent weeks from about 20 Part D enrollees who've either hit the coverage gap or are nearing it. Medicare is the government's health insurance program for those 65 and older and the disabled.

The gap is the latest headache to confront those who thought that signing up for a Part D plan would lower their costs for expensive medications. Early glitches blocked some from getting prescriptions because their names didn't appear in the computer systems of the private companies selected to operate the plans. Others tried to buy drugs only to learn at the pharmacy counter that the medicines weren't covered by their plans.